



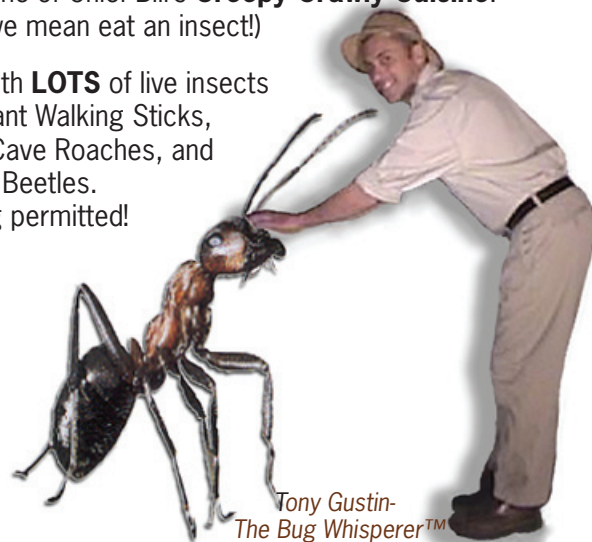
## Sunday, September 15 1-4 pm

**BUGS RULE!** Join us as we celebrate the little creatures that run our world at our 9th Annual Bug Day event.

Join the **Bug Whisperer** for his high energy show "Who Wants to be an Entomologist?" You'll love this hands-on tour of the stranger-than-fiction world of insects! (1:30 pm weather permitting)

Try some of Chief Bill's **Creepy Crawly Cuisine**. (Yes, we mean eat an insect!)

Visit with **LOTS** of live insects like Giant Walking Sticks, Giant Cave Roaches, and Blister Beetles. Petting permitted!



Meet Pepper the **Bed Bug Sniffing Dog** and learn how to keep Bed Bugs from biting you!

Watch Beekeepers work with over 40,000 honey bees and take a peek inside the hive.

**So grab the larvae and scurry over to Wehr for lots of six-legged fun!**

\$2/person, \$1/FOW Members  
Children 2 yrs & under FREE \$3 per car parking fee



**THE  
GHOSTS  
ARE  
COMING!**

## Halloween Haunts

Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings Oct. 17, 18 & 19

- Bring your family out to Milwaukee's premier Halloween Event
- See hundreds of exquisite Jack-o-lanterns
- Meet kooky, nature characters in the Enchanted Forest
- Enjoy a magic show
- Celebrate Halloween at our carnival
- Hikes start every 7 minutes between 6:30 to 8:30 pm

### Advance Tickets Required

\$10/per person;

\$7/per person, Milw. County Resident or FOW Member

See page 10 for information on ticket sales.



## Center News

### Goodbye Jo



No one has introduced as many people to Wehr as Jo Williams. As our Volunteer Coordinator, Jo has been recruiting, training, guiding, and helping volunteers at Wehr Nature Center since 1999. Through her leadership and ingenuity the volunteer program has grown from a small group of dedicated volunteers to an organization of over 300. We have all types of volunteers thanks to Jo's efforts. She has developed roles for teen volunteers, corporate volunteers, college students, service projects, court-ordered service, as well as individuals. Jo greets every potential volunteer with a smile and introductory interview as she helps them find the job that is just right fit for them.

Jo has been part of our Wehr family for 29 years. She started as a volunteer herself, working with our "Bulldozer Alert" group to rescue native plants in the path of development and in 1989 she became a part-time Nature in the Park naturalist. Even after becoming Wehr's volunteer coordinator, we could always count on Jo to fill in when needed to teach

a school field trip or help out with a project. Jo loves to fish and she has been the driving force behind our summer fishing camps for kids. She has patiently shown how to bait hooks and untangle fishing line and along the way introduced hundreds of kids to the wonderful world of fishing.

As our volunteer coordinator, Jo has always worn many hats. Besides building our volunteer base and developing a record system for tracking volunteer hours, Jo has been the lead for events like Earth Day, Winter Fest, and Bird Fest. Her creativity and organizational skills have turned our annual Volunteer Recognitions Dinner into a can't miss event. She has worked closely with Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful to have Wehr be part of great community events like the Great American Clean-up and Greenwich Village at Irish Fest. Jo has been instrumental in making big, special events such as Prairie Days, Halloween Haunts and Maple Sugar weekend possible. Who will ever take her place decorating for Halloween or supervising the noise and chaos of the Halloween Haunts game room? Thank you Jo!

Jo's last day with Wehr is July 4th. It is fitting that someone with so much energy and joy will start her new life on a day of fireworks and festivities. Stop by her office and say good-bye and wish her well in her many plans for retirement.

### We Are Repairing the View Thanks to You

Thank you for the amazing response to our call for help! In the Winter edition of *Wehr Words* we asked for your help in replacing our worn, and inefficient windows. Milwaukee County has funding to replace the rotted cedar siding on the building, but the FOW must first secure donations to install new windows. We have received many great leads to find donors and we encourage you to keep reaching out to us. At this time, we have received donations or pledges for 16 complete windows. That leaves 25 priority windows that need funding before the end of August. Please keep the ideas and donations coming!

Several people have inquired about making a partial donation, rather than paying for an entire window on their own. We thought that was a wonderful idea and have designated the windows by the bird watching and bee hive area the **"It Takes a Whole Community"** windows. There is a collection jar at the Front Desk for anyone wanting to make donations of less than \$20 to the "Community" windows. For donations over \$20, fill out a form from the receptionist so we can send a letter to you acknowledging your tax deductible contribution. Hopefully these two windows will get funded quickly and we will add other "Community" windows.



Windows can be donated by groups as well. Several of the community organizations that meet at Wehr have collaborated to purchase windows, and we have windows donated by extended families. Individuals or groups that contribute enough for a complete window will be recognized by a plaque mounted on their window. What a great way to support a worthy cause and to get the name of your church, club or service group recognized in the community.

Thanks everyone and keep sharing new ideas and bringing money in. Help make our windows a reality by August, 2013.





## Friends Of Wehr

### Thank You!

Your contributions to the Friends of Wehr are appreciated and always used with careful consideration.

#### Donations

Wild Ones  
Gary Smieja  
Rachel Finger  
Robert Caldwell &  
Wanda Martinez  
Erika Voss  
Carol Block  
John & Judith Dimmick  
Linda Krueger

#### Memorials/Donations

##### In Memory of Marion Pientka

Judith Huck  
Mark & Pamela Ariens  
Jeffrey & Deborah Diven  
Barbara & Wayne Janaszek  
Michael & Patricia Lanko  
James & Patricia Lein  
Thomas &  
Margaret McGinnity

Jerome & Kathleen Motz  
Vicky Schinker  
Steve & Joyce Urbaniak  
Donna Spahn  
In Memory of Leonard Staszak  
Marianne Staszak  
In Memory of Herron 'Ike' Eckstein

Thomas & Margaret Coonan  
Rosalie & Richard Knisbeck  
Mary Gease  
Edward & Julia Kolinski  
Michael & Diane Piontek  
Karen Szews  
Donna Roemer  
Donald & Shirley Wert  
Lee Zellmer

##### In Memory of Dick Bauer

Charles & Sue Wiske  
Gary Metz

Frederick Mikolajewski  
Anonymous

##### In Memory Hallie Kirschner

Mary Gease

##### In Memory of Marion and Bernard Pientka

Janet Sarnow

#### In-Kind Donation

Pat Fojut & Kathy Reese

#### New Windows

GDI

Pat Casillo

Carole Engel

Janet Sarnow

Barb Nellen

#### Corporate/Business Donations

Anchor Bank

Waukesha County Community Foundation

Thank you to Jackie  
Crivello's Wild Birds  
Unlimited for their  
continuing support in  
keeping our feeders full  
and our birds happy.  
Please support their  
business located at  
4454 S. 108th Street  
in Greenfield.




Wild Birds Unlimited\*

## OCTOBER 6, 2013

### Noon - 5pm

### Autumn Fun for the Whole Family

-  Press Apple Cider
-  Taste Homemade Apple Butter
-  Create Your Own Autumn Crafts
-  Go On a Guided Nature Walk
-  Bid in the Raffle and Silent Auction
-  Feast On Our Famous Apple Desserts



Admission: \$2/PERSON; 2yrs & Under Are Free

FREE For Friends of Wehr Members

Join FOW on Cider Sunday and get a whole year of free parking, discounts in the Nature Store, program discounts, and access to a Friends only night at Halloween Haunts



WEHR WORDS - Editor: Bev Bryant  
Contributors: Deb McRae, Mark Verhagen,  
Pat Fojut, Jo Williams, Howard Aprill, Emily Brown



## Thank You For A Fun Feast

Feast Among the Flowers was great fun and a fund raising success. Our guests bid high and often at our silent auction, raising enough money to purchase a window and donate toward the accessibility project. Many thanks go to our donors of food and silent auction items - Pat and Paul Brings, Greg Joers, Patti Kiesow, Tom and Deb McRae, Barb Nellen, Nick Nellen, Marilyn Runge, Ron Rebernick, Kris Maegli, Starfire Jewelry, and Pat Szmerlow. We could not have held the event without our wonderful volunteers - Alice Ambrowiak, Jimmy Frazer, Sharon Fleiss, Karen Kerans, Patti Kiesow, Paul Kohlman, Tom McRae, Barb Nellen, Mary Pike, Pat Szmerlow, and all of the staff in front and behind the scenes. Thank you everyone!



The White Trillium edged out the Wood Violet by a petal as our favorite Feast Ephemeral



## Nature Volunteer News

### Upcoming Opportunities for Current Volunteers

#### Dotty's Crafters

Wednesdays, July 10, August 7, September 4, 1-3 pm

#### Earth Care (Plant Related Task—On the job training provided)

Thursdays, July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 9-11 am

#### Bug Day Sunday – September 15, 12:30-4:30 pm

#### Teaching Naturalist Trainings

Fall Puppet Show & Possum's Adventure:

Wednesday, September 11, 9 am -12 pm

Soil Secrets:

Thursday, September 12, 9 am - 12pm

Nature's Neighborhood & Ecosystems:

Friday, September 13, 9am -12pm

#### Ongoing Opportunities

Phenology, Wheel n Chip, Critter Care,

Teach School Groups, Trail Patrol

To sign up to help call 414-425-8550.

**New volunteers are always welcome!**

**Contact Emily Brown today.**

**emily.brown@milwcnty.com**

**and make an appointment.**



#### Wanted For Cider Sunday

**Donations** of new items for our Silent Auction and Opportunity Baskets.

**Volunteers** to help plan, organize and supervise activities for the event.

These include: crafts, apple activities, Silent Auction and Raffle, vendors, food and more!

Please contact Barb Nellen at (414) 425-2666 or email: [smilebjnellen@yahoo.com](mailto:smilebjnellen@yahoo.com)



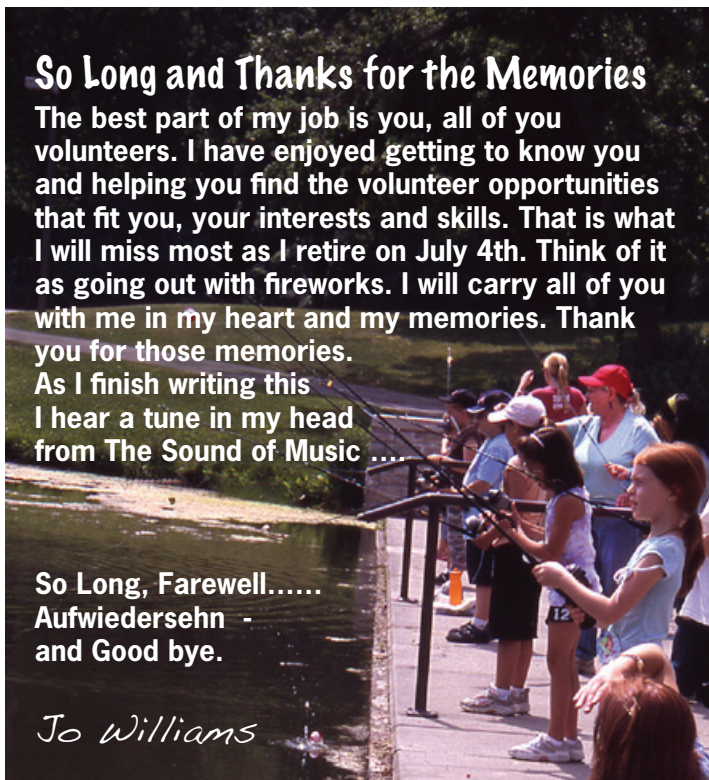
### So Long and Thanks for the Memories

The best part of my job is you, all of you volunteers. I have enjoyed getting to know you and helping you find the volunteer opportunities that fit you, your interests and skills. That is what I will miss most as I retire on July 4th. Think of it as going out with fireworks. I will carry all of you with me in my heart and my memories. Thank you for those memories.

As I finish writing this I hear a tune in my head from The Sound of Music ....

So Long, Farewell.....  
Aufwiedersehn -  
and Good bye.

*Jo Williams*



#### Kudos Corner





Thank you to local artist, Arthur Bates for exhibiting his wonderful water colors during May. The exhibit was a wonderful addition to our regular exhibits and provided inspiration to all who viewed his work.



# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Hike for Health 10:30 am	4 4th of July  Wehr Nature Center is Closed	5	6 Wehr Astronomical Society Solar Viewing 1-5 pm
7	8 Little Wonders 2 yr olds 9:30-10:30 am 3 yr olds 11 am-12 Nature Wizard 1-3 pm	9	10 Hike for Health 10:30 am Dotty's Crafters 1-3 pm	11 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	12 Fireside Fridays: Firefly Fun 7-9 pm	13
14 NatureNauts 1-2 pm	15 NatureNauts 9:30-10:30 am	16	17 Hike for Health 10:30 am	18 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	19	20 Into The Wild 9 am-4 pm
21	22	23	24 Hike for Health 10:30 am	25 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	26 Fireside Fridays: Twilight Travelers 7-9 pm	27
28	29	30	31 Hike for Health 10:30 am			
For more information call 414-425-8550 All programs & events subject to change. Parking fees may apply.						

# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				<b>1</b> Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Hike for Health 10:30 am Dotty's Crafters 1-3 pm	<b>8</b> Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	<b>9</b> Fireside Fridays: Moons and Meteors 7-9 pm	<b>10</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Little Wonders 2 yr olds 9:30-10:30 am 3 yr olds 11 am-12 Nature Wizard 1-3 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Hike for Health 10:30 am	<b>15</b> Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Into the Wild 8:30am- 4 pm
	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Hike for Health 10:30 am	<b>22</b> Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	<b>23</b> Bat Night 8-10 pm 	<b>24</b>
	<b>25</b> NatureNauts 1-2 pm	<b>26</b> NatureNauts 9:30-10:30 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Hike for Health 10:30 am	<b>29</b> Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
For more information call 414-425-8550 All programs & events subject to change. Parking fees may apply.							



# SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	<b>2</b>  Wehr Nature Center is Closed	3	<b>4</b> Hike for Health 10:30 am Dotty's Crafters 1-3 pm	5	6	7
8	<b>9</b> Little Wonders 2 yr olds 9:30-10:30 am 3 yr olds 11 am-12	<b>10</b> Wehr Astronomical Society 7 pm	<b>11</b> Teaching Naturalist Training 9 am –noon Hike for Health 10:30 am	<b>12</b> Teaching Naturalist Training 9 am –noon	<b>13</b> Teaching Naturalist Training 9 am –noon	<b>14</b> Camera Club 9-11 am Wild Ones 1:30-3:30 pm
<b>15</b> Bug Day 1-4 pm 	<b>16</b> Halloween Haunts  Tickets on Sale to Friends of Wehr Members 9 am	17	<b>18</b> Hike for Health 10:30 am Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society 7 pm	19	20	<b>21</b> Into the Wild 9 am-4:30 pm
<b>22</b> NatureNauts 1-2 pm	<b>23</b> Halloween Haunts  Tickets on Sale to Public 9 am NatureNauts 9:30-10:30 am Nature Wizard 1-3 pm	24	<b>25</b> Hike for Health 10:30 am	26	27	28
29	30					
For more information call 414-425-8550 All programs & events subject to change. Parking fees may apply.						



## Nature Discovery For Children

### Little Wonders

A program for 2 and 3 year olds to share with their favorite adult

Times: **9:30-10:30 am** for Two Year Olds    **11 am-Noon** for Three Year Olds

#### Froggy Fun Monday, July 8

Toddlers should hop, leap, and jump over to Wehr to enjoy an hour of froggy fun. We will learn frog talk, hop like frogs, and read a froggy story. Children will meet some live amphibians and make their own frog craft to take home.

#### Water is Wonderful Monday, August 12

Tots should dress for a morning of water play fun. We will be outside (weather permitting) discovering the joys of scooping, pouring, splashing and measuring water. We will hear a story about the wonders of water, make a sparkly wave bottle and eat a watery snack.

#### Cricket Song Monday, September 9

Crickets are cool! We will listen to *The Very Quiet Cricket* by Eric Carle, meet some live crickets and other insects, and go for a cricket hunt along Wehr's trails. We will even make and eat a "buggy" snack. Bring your child over and help teach them to not let bugs bug them!

### NatureNauts

A series of fun-filled programs for children 4-6 years old and their favorite adult.

**1-2 pm for Sunday Classes**

**9:30-10:30 am for Monday Classes**

#### Butterflies

**Sunday, July 14 or Monday, July 15**

Butterflies are beautiful! Discover what butterflies grace our back yards and their amazing adaptations. See real live butterflies up close.

#### Beetlemania

**Sunday, August 25 or Monday, August 26**

Beetles fly, swim, and crawl everywhere. Discover how these armored insects are special as we meet real live beetles.

#### Terrific Turtles

**Sunday, September 22 or Monday, September 23**

Meet live turtles up close. Enjoy a short walk in search of turtles, and make a craft turtle to discover all the turtle fun.

### Nature Wizards

Hands-on, minds-on learning for homeschooled children ages 7 to 12    **1-3 pm**

#### Reptiles Rock Monday, July 8

Meet snakes and turtles up close and personal as we learn about our reptile neighbors. We will explore their amazing adaptations, learn cool reptile facts, and go for a walk in search of our scaly friends.

#### Arthropod Adventures Monday, August 12

Bugs are cool! Become an entomologist for the day and discover the amazing world of insects and their arthropod relatives. Children will become a "bug" as we play "Is It an Insect?" and then grab some gear and go on an outdoor, insect safari.

#### Diggin' Into Soil Monday, September 23

Get ready to dig up one of Earth's most precious substance, and don't call it dirt! Homeschoolers will "cook" up some soil, measure erosion, test soil textures and discover some of the living things that make their home underground.



**Pre-registration is required for all children's programs    Deadline is the Wednesday before the program date**  
**Fees: \$10 per child    \$7 for Milwaukee County Residents    \$5 members of Friends of Wehr**





## Nature Discovery for Adults

### Bat Night

Meet real live Bats! Discover the fiction, folklore, and facts, on Bats. Learn how you can participate in Citizen Science projects to help our diminishing Bat neighbors.

**Friday, August 23, 8-10 pm**

*Fees: \$10 per person \$7 for Milwaukee County Residents \$5 for FOW Members Registration required by Wed., August 21*

### Into the Wild

Weekend explorations to regional natural areas of interest led by a Friends of Wehr Naturalist.

#### UW-Madison Arboretum & Centennial Gardens

We will stroll through the Arboretum's Curtis Prairie and visit the Centennial Gardens on campus. When we are done exploring we will stop for a special treat: Babcock Hall ice cream!

**Saturday, July 20 9 am-4 pm**

#### Chicago Botanical Gardens

We will visit Dixon Prairie and other sections of the Chicago Botanical Gardens, focusing on the native wildflowers and also learn about rain and rooftop gardens at the new Science Building.

**Saturday, Aug 17 8:30 am-4 pm**

#### Lulu Lake GPS Adventure

This field trip will be the first of its kind. We'll purposely be hiking off trail in fairly easy terrain, but avoiding thick brush at a very picturesque place. You'll be learning how to do basic navigation with a handheld GPS unit. There will be an opportunity for anyone to guide the group to a pre-determined point along the way. Things like botany and bird watching will also be a part of our hike.

**Saturday, September 21, 9:00 am-4:30 pm**

*Fees: \$25 per person \$10 for Friends of Wehr  
Registration is required by the Friday before the program.*



Lulu Lake

### Hike for Health

Hike along with this group that walks Wehr's trails together for camaraderie, exercise and fun. Meet in the Visitor Center.

**Every Wednesday 10:30 am** *No fee or registration required; regular parking fee in effect.*



### Adopt A Beach Clean-Up Days

Become a citizen scientist and help clean up the Grant Park 7-Bridge Trail Beach as part of the Adopt-a-Beach Program of the Alliance for Great Lakes. The Adopt-a-Beach program is more than just a beach sweep. Teams will conduct litter removal and monitoring, and also complete a beach assessment form that provides scientists with information on the health of the area and how it is used by people. To learn more about the Adopt a Beach program, visit : <http://www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeach> .

Training, forms and equipment will be provided. Meet at Wulff Lodge, Grant Park in South Milwaukee  
Clean-up Dates: **Fri., June 14 10:00-11:30 am**  
**Fri., July 12, 10:00-11:30 am**  
**Sat., Sept. 14, 9:00 am to Noon**

*Registration is required. Free*

### FRIENDS OF WEHR NATURE STORE



#### Shop In The Beauty Of Nature

*Gifts for Nature Lovers of All Ages*

Equip Your Little Nature Explorer for outdoor adventures with Bug Catchers, Magnifiers, Discovery Kits and more

*New Titles In the Store:*

Atlas of the Breeding Birds of WI  
Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts  
Peterson, Sibley's, National Geographic, Golden and Kaufman Field Guides to Birds

All proceeds go to Friends of Wehr to support the educational programs at Wehr Nature Center.

**Open 8:30 am-4 pm**



## Nature Discovery for Families



A series of evening nature discovery programs for families. Enjoy a twilight walk and then share a campfire dessert by the fire pit.

### Firefly Fun July 12, 7-9 pm

Discover the fascinating secrets of fireflies, hike to the prairie to look for fireflies and then return to the campfire to toast S'mores.

### Twilight Travelers July 26, 7-9 pm

Discover the world of crepuscular creatures as we walk Wehr's trails at twilight. We will learn about deer, raccoon and many critters before returning to the fire pit for a campfire treat.

### Moons and Meteors Aug. 9, 7-9 pm

Learn moon facts and fiction before going on a twilight hike. We will return to the fire pit to look for meteors as part of the Persied meteor shower and share a campfire dessert.

*Fee: \$10 for Adults \$8 for Milw. County Residents  
\$6 per Child or FOW members*

*Recommended for Ages 6 and older*

*Registration is recommended by the Wednesday before the program*

## Bug Day Returns!

**Sunday, Sept. 15, 1-4 pm**

Bug Whisperer show- "Who Wants to be an Entomologist?"

1:30 pm weather permitting

Creepy Crawly Cuisine (edible insects)

Live Insect Zoo – This isn't your traditional petting zoo!

Bug Discovery Walk – dip, dig, and swoop for insects

Butterflies – see one of the largest butterfly collections in Wisconsin

Dress Like a Bug

Larva Land (for preschoolers)

Bed Bug Sniffing Dog – Meet "Pepper", the Bed Bug dog.

*\$2/person \$1/FOW Members 2 yrs & under FREE \$3 parking fee*



## Astronomical Viewing

**Saturday, July 6, 1-5 pm**

Offered by Members of Wehr Astronomical Society

Daytime Solar Viewing - View sunspots and solar flares through a special filtered telescope. Cloudy skies cancel event.

*Location: Wehr Nature Center*

## Nighttime Sky Viewing

**Saturday, August 3, 8-10 pm**

**Saturday, September 7, 7-10 pm**

Look through a telescope and learn about the night sky with experts. Cloudy skies cancel event.

*Location: Froemming Park, 8801 S. 51st St, Franklin WI 53132*

*Free and Open to the Public*



## Halloween Haunts Ticket Sales

### Friends of Wehr Member Sales Start Monday, September 16, 9 am

Friends can take advantage of this opportunity to have the first chance for tickets to this popular event. You will need to have a current family membership to take advantage of this benefit. You can purchase tickets in person or over the phone with a credit card. To become a member, visit [www.friendsofwehr.org](http://www.friendsofwehr.org) or call (414) 425-8550.

### General Public Tickets Sales Start Monday, September 23, 9 am

Don't be a zombie! Purchase your tickets for our popular Halloween Haunts early, or you won't have a ghost of a chance. Halloween Haunts is a fun, educational, nature-oriented Halloween event for families with children ages 4-10 years.

*Ticket Prices: \$10/Per Person \$7/Milw. County Residents & Friends of Wehr members*



## Halloween Haunts is October 17, 18, and 19, 2013







## Community Organizations

Wehr is fortunate to host several organizations who share their passion and knowledge about the natural world with the public. For more information about these organizations and details about their programs, please visit their web-sites or call Wehr (414) 425-8550.

**Wehr Camera Club** is dedicated to sharing a passion for photography and nature.

Visit <http://www.wnccameraclub.com> for program information. Public programs are held the second Saturday of the each month, September to June, from 9-11 am.

**Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society** is a chapter of the National Audubon Society that encourages environmental stewardship through education and conservation. Public programs are held on the third Wednesday each month from 7-9 pm, September to May. Visit <http://www.wimetroaudubon.org> for program information.

**Wild Ones, Natural Landscapers Inc.** supports the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities by promoting the use of native plants in landscaping. Meetings are held at WNC from 1:30-3:30 pm each second Saturday of the month from September to April. Visit [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org) for program information.

**Wehr Astronomical Society** is a group of amateur astronomers that promote the study of astronomy. Meetings are from 7-9 pm the second Tuesday of each month, September to June. Visit <http://www.wehrastr.org> for information

## A Forest of Transformation

The 5th graders at Ben Franklin Elementary in Franklin set out last September to turn a little remnant oak woodland choked with invasive plants, garbage and yard waste into an outdoor learning lab. With the help of Wehr Nature Center, a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) and the hard work of students, teachers, scouts, and parents truckloads of Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard were removed and an interpretative nature trail was established. The work of these Franklin Forester's transformed the 2-acres woodland, but more importantly it has transformed everyone involved.

Students spent every Tuesday exploring and learning about their forest. During an archeological survey of the woods in October, students gathered data on the age of trees and recorded all evidence of human use. They found Oak trees well over 150 years old, old farm tools, an intriguing circle of boulders, and lots of trash! Their discoveries lead to many questions and helped them clarify their goals. They would transform this forest into a learning lab by creating a nature trail with labels and field guides, find a way to protect and promote the beautiful Oak trees, remove trash, get rid of Buckthorn, and dig into history to tell the story of the generations of people who called this woodland home. The children reached out to experts from the Franklin Historical Society, computer and media specialists, even Franklin mayor Tom Taylor to research answers and to plan a strategy to reach their goals. Student selected groups worked diligently and created amazing products. The history team worked with primary sources and found every family that lived on the land since 1838. Teams created electronic and paper field guides to trees, flowers, and animals. Our map group used GPS units to collect spatial data for the trail map. The publicity group created outreach materials, a children's book, and even mini-movies about the forest that they shared with their schoolmates via close-circuit television. A Franklin Forester's web-site, complete with an interactive history timeline, links to You Tube videos, and summaries of all their research was created to spread the word about the project. Take a look at [tinyurl.com/franklinforesters](http://tinyurl.com/franklinforesters) You will be amazed!



Students not only learned forest ecology through this authentic learning experience, they developed important life skills. Children learned how to: ask good questions, use heavy tools, walk in the woods without tripping, share ideas and respect those of others, do research and cite sources, persuade others (including adults) to help them, SOLVE PROBLEMS, to not give up when you don't get the results you want the first time, to be curious, and that they have the power to make positive changes in their world. They have learned that history and science are not facts in books, but a process that people DO! What a perfect platform to learn science, social studies, civics, language arts, math and art!

The success of this project has been amazing, but there is still more the children want to accomplish. The good news is that we have received a second year of funding from WEEB to continue the project in 2013/14! Visit the Franklin Forester or Friends of Wehr web-sites for updates our exciting work.

# WHAT'S THAT SOUND?!

## The Singing Summer Insects



Summer is a great time to listen for the sounds of the insect chorus. We can enjoy a nature concert in the cool morning, the hot afternoon, or a clement evening and listen for their various voices emanating from the wetland, meadow or prairie. These insect sounds are delicate and complex but with a few guiding hints, we can pick out the creature that is sounding off.

Near the 4th of July listen to the loudest of insect sounds, the cicada. The cicada is a warm weather, day time insect in the Homoptera insect order. When I was young, we called the 'heat bug'. The call starts slowly as the cicada starts vibrating a special diaphragm. The buzz gets louder and louder until it makes the loudest sound in the forest, then fades to quiet as he runs out of energy. We listen to an annual cicada here in southeastern Wisconsin, but in Illinois and as close as Beloit in Wisconsin, a population of the 17-year cicada can also be heard. This is a red-eyed cicada that has a lower and slower buzzy sound. It should appear again in 2024. The last time we heard them in Wisconsin was in 2007.



Cicada\*

The Grasshopper order, Orthoptera, includes many species of grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids. The first pair of sturdy leathery wings on all these insects helps these creatures blend into their surroundings. Their jointed legs make it possible for them to live successfully in grassy meadows and wetlands. The katydid, perched in a nearby tree, stands out with its loud, mechanical sound that seems to say, "katy did, katy did it," but the katydid doesn't sound off until evenings in August. The cone-headed pointed head, seems to call day and night to listen for, closely.



Katydid\*

These world class hoppers are found in grassy meadows rather than up in the trees.

Another grasshopper that peaks in August or early September is the red-legged grasshopper. This Melanoplus species and the related two-striped grasshopper are called spur-throated grasshoppers. They can be very numerous when summer conditions are just right. These grasshoppers are more active in the daylight hours and have a soft snapping of their wings as they all jump in chaos. Another common grasshopper often found in the open is the banded-wing grasshopper, the Carolina locust is the species in our area and it is the only grasshopper that can make a sound in flight.



Carolina locust\*



Red-legged grasshopper\*

The most musical of the insects are the crickets. The crick, crick of the house cricket and the constant trill of the field cricket can be an enjoyable summer sound as you fall asleep in the late summer. These insects have a file and scraper on their folded wings that helps amplify the sound so each can find a mate. The tree crickets are pale green and slender and live in shrubby habitats. They and the ground crickets have similar sound-making tools. Tree crickets often chirp at night. Some species have a pulsing chirp, others seem as constant as a metronome. The snowy tree cricket, also known as the temperature cricket, has a regular chirp related to the temperature. Count the chirps for 15 seconds, add 40 and you'll get the current temperature in Fahrenheit.

Enjoy the summer insect chorus well into September. It only lasts about 5 weeks before temperatures cool. Eggs will be laid and the singers silenced as the season marches on.



Snowy tree cricket\*

Pat Fojut, Nature in the Parks

\*Images and sounds: T.J. Walker



### At Wehr Nature Center

9701 W. College Ave.

Franklin, WI 53132

In Whitnall Park

Open Daily 8-4:30

(Check for holiday hours)

wehrrnaturecenter@milwcnty.com

## Learn more about activities and events throughout the Milwaukee County Parks



## HUNTER'S MOON & HARVEST STEW'S FUNDRAISER



Saturday, November 16th

5 pm for Moonrise 6 – 8 pm Wine & Dine

Come bask in the glow of the Hunter's Moon as we observe the moonrise and enjoy sampling several stews. Browse the Fall Themed Silent Auction and wander out to enjoy the fire in the amphitheater's new fire pit. We'll be voting on our favorite full moon name, shopping the Nature Store and Christmas Market in the Fireplace Room. Help us to raise funds for our building and accessibility improvements.

\$17.00/person (\$5.00 upgrade includes 2 wine/beer tokens)

Reservations Appreciated, but not required.

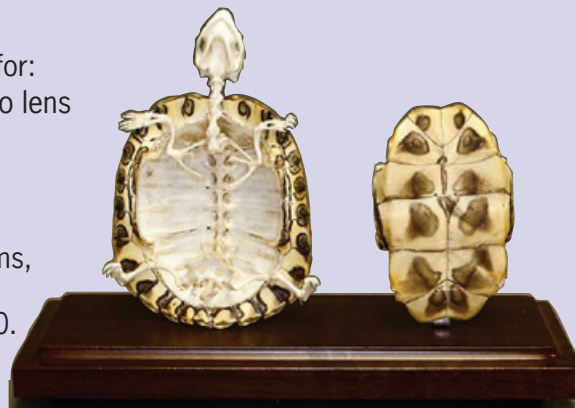
Menu: Stews, Salad, Breads, Relish platter, desserts and coffee/soda/water

Since this is the second edition of the new WEHR WORDS online, we hope you are enjoying the special interactive features such as the "Owl Button" which will link you to web pages that correspond to the page you are viewing. There are also traditional underlined links to more information about particular events, clubs, etc. And maybe even a surprise or two!

## Wish List

Contributions of any amount will be appreciated for:  
Digital SLR Camera with close up and telephoto lens  
Wildlife Trail Cam  
Hydraulic Log Splitter  
Mounted Turtle Skeleton

If you are interested in donating any of these items, or would like to contribute money towards their purchase, please contact Deb at (414) 425-8550. Your contributions are tax deductible when made to the Friends of Wehr.



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**Membership Application:** This is an annual membership from January - December

Mail to: Friends of Wehr 9701 College Ave. Franklin, WI 53132 Make checks payable to Friends of Wehr or renew online at [www.friendsofwehr.org](http://www.friendsofwehr.org)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY-STATE-ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE

	Individual	Family
Regular	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>
Senior (65)	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer (50 hrs)	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>

Payment Method ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Friends of Wehr) Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Charge (Visa MC Discover AE) # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

